

Throughout their lives, Chuck and Shelby Obershaw have exhibited kindness, love, humility, and a deep resolve to ameliorate all aspects of community life, so it is only appropriate that they receive the Golden Baton Award.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Chuck and Shelby Obershaw and express my sincere admiration that they have received this wonderful and well-deserved honor.

#### RECOGNITION OF FRIEDREICH'S ATAXIA AWARENESS DAY

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2005*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Friedreich's Ataxia Awareness Day, which is recognized each year on the third Saturday in May.

Friedreich's ataxia is a life-shortening neurological disorder usually diagnosed in childhood, causing weakness and loss of coordination in the arms and legs; impairment of vision, hearing and speech; scoliosis, diabetes; and a life-threatening heart condition. Most patients need a wheelchair full-time by their twenties. Life expectancy is reduced to early adulthood. There is currently no effective treatment or cure for Friedreich's ataxia. Sadly, I have a young constituent who suffers from this rare disease, Evan Luebke. Evan and his family are working to bring awareness to this disease in my district. I am proud of the strength and courage he exemplifies as he battles this disease.

Although there is no effective treatment or cure available, Friedreich's ataxia patients and families have more and more reason for real hope. An extraordinary explosion of research insights has followed the identification of the Friedreich's ataxia gene in 1996. Since that discovery, research scientists have learned a great deal about the disorder. We now know what defects in the gene cause the disease, what protein the gene is supposed to produce, what that protein is supposed to accomplish, and why a shortage of the protein results in the cell death that leads to the disease symptoms. Investigators are increasingly optimistic that they are drawing closer to understanding more fully the causes of Friedreich's ataxia and to developing effective treatments. In fact, they have recently declared that, "in Friedreich's ataxia, we have entered the treatment era."

At the National Institutes of Health and around the world, clinical trials for Friedreich's ataxia are being conducted on drugs that hold real promise. The growing cooperation among organizations supporting the research, and the multidisciplinary efforts of thousands of scientists and health care professionals, provide powerful evidence of the determination to conquer Friedreich's ataxia.

On the third Saturday of May, events will be held across our country, including one in West Chester, Ohio, to increase public awareness of Friedreich's ataxia and to raise funds to support the research that promises treatments for this disease. I applaud the Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA) for its contributions to these efforts and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing May 21,

2005, as Friedreich's Ataxia Awareness Day to show our concern for all those families affected by this disorder and to express our support and encouragement for their efforts to achieve treatments and a cure.

#### STATEMENT INTRODUCING REPEAL OF SELECTIVE SERVICE

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2005*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to repeal the Selective Service Act and related parts of the United States Code. The Department of Defense, in response to calls to reinstate the draft, has confirmed that conscription serves no military need.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld is on record citing the "notable disadvantages" of a military draft, adding, ". . . there is not a draft. . . . There will not be a draft."

This is only the most recent confirmation that the draft, and thus the Selective Service system, serves no military purpose.

Obviously, if there is no military need for the draft, then there is no need for Selective Service registration. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, Selective Service registration is an outdated and outmoded system, which has been made obsolete by technological advances.

In fact, in 1993, the Department of Defense issued a report stating that registration could be stopped "with no effect on military mobilization and no measurable effect on the time it would take to mobilize, and no measurable effect on military recruitment." Yet the American taxpayer has been forced to spend over \$500 million dollars on an outdated system "with no measurable effect on military mobilization!"

Shutting down Selective Service will give taxpayers a break without adversely affecting military efforts. Shutting down Selective Service will also end a program that violates the very principals of individual liberty our nation was founded upon. The moral case against the draft was eloquently expressed by former President Ronald Reagan in the publication *Human Events* in 1979: ". . . it [conscription] rests on the assumption that your kids belong to the state. If we buy that assumption then it is for the state—not for parents, the community, the religious institutions or teachers—to decide who shall have what values and who shall do what work, when, where and how in our society. That assumption isn't a new one. The Nazis thought it was a great idea."

I hope all my colleagues join me in working to shut down this un-American relic of a bygone era and help realize the financial savings and the gains to individual liberties that can be achieved by ending Selective Service registration.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF PEACE OFFICER ME- MORIAL DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 6, 2005*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week marks National Police Week, with May 15th designated as Peace Officers' Memorial Day. It's a week where we pay tribute to our nation's law enforcement officers. In recognition of this event, I would like acknowledge the efforts of our federal, state and local law enforcement. Without their courage, commitment, and ability to meet the many challenges, our lives as Americans would be very different.

Simply put, law enforcement officers risk their lives so that others are protected. Every day these brave men and women go to work knowing there is a possibility they may not come home.

Last year, 153 police officers were killed in the line of duty. That is 153 fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, daughters, and sons who weren't able to go home to their families at the end of the workday.

The Dallas Police Department has lost a total of 75 police officers:

C.O. Brewer, William H. Riddell, William McDuff, Leslie N Patrick, T.A. Tedford, W. Roy Thornton, Leroy Wood, Johnnie E. Gibson, John R. Crain, Charles S. Swinney, Dexter Clayton Phillips, Clarence Marshall Isbell, Alex W. Tedford, Sam Griffin Lanford, Jesse Emmett Griffin, Luke J. Bell, Ernest E. Leonard, Jr., John W. Dieken, John R. Roberts, Ralph Wendell Hoyt, Victor Leon Morris, Ernest Elmer Bates, Jr., Preston D. Hale, William Edward Stafford, Johnny W. Sides, Leonard C. Mullenax, Ray Allen Underwood, J.D. Tippit, Frank Weldon Bennett, James Douglas Stewart, Floyd A. Knight, Robert H. Shipp, Johnnie T. Hartwell, Allen Pery Camp, Carl Jackson Cooke, Howard Kenton Hicks, Joe Jones, Levy McQuietor, Jr., Milton E. Whatley, Donald P. Tucker, Sr., Leslie G. Lane, Jr., Alvin Duane Hallum, Alvin E. Moore, Robert W. Wood, John T. McCarthy, Charles J. "Chip" Maltese, Jr., John R. Pasco, Carl J. Norris, Ronald D. Baker, Robert L. Cormier, James C. Taylor, Thomas Lee Harris, Gary Reeves Blair, James Allen Joe, John Glenn Chase, Gary Don McCarthy, Walter Leon Williams, Lawrence R. Cadena, Sr., Lisa L. Sandel, Mark L. Fleming, Michael R. Okelberry, Thomas G. Burchfield, Sunny Ma Lov, Lawrence David Bromley, Harold Lee Hammons, Billy W. Daughterty, John Paul Jones, Jr., Richard A. Lawrence, David R. Galvan, Thomas D. Bond, Henry Allen Brown, Harold F. Baird, Jr., Donald F. Flusche, Jr., Christopher K. James, and Patrick Lee Metzler.

Mr. Speaker, the risk encountered by law enforcement officers serving in communities throughout this country is enormous; and this extraordinary sacrifice is all too often viewed as routine. Police officers put themselves at risk so that our communities can be safe. One week of recognition is simply not enough for that type of selflessness. America's men and women in uniform give us their best, and they deserve the best from us in return.